

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claim 21. Thus, claims 1, 3-20 and 22 are now pending in the application with claims 1 and 3-7 withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.

The Examiner has objected to claim 11 due a minor grammatical error. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 11 as suggested by the Examiner. In addition, Applicant has amended claims 13 and 15 to improve clarity. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to remove the object to claim 11.

Claims 8-20 are rejected on prior art grounds. Claims 21 and 22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended independent claim 8 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 21 and amended dependent claims 12, 14 and 17 to reflect the changes to claim 8. Accordingly, claims 8-20 and 22 should now be in condition for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/673,738

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher R. Lipp
Registration No. 41,157

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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